

"Building Our Sense of Community"

Shelton State Courier

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Shelton State Community College

Nov. 27, 2001—Dec. 5, 2001

Inside The Courier

In a review of the war, pg. 2, the *Courier* talks to Bill Aldridge and gets a comparison to the Vietnam war.

In *Buccaneer Sports*, basketball and golf, but in breaking news Adam Price (L) signs with UAB and Ryan Beagle signs with the University of Alabama



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The state of Union



This store is one of only a couple of thriving businesses in the town of Union

By Adam Jaffe

On Oct. 26, President Rick Rogers and other officials of Shelton State and, specifically, the Fredd campus of the college announced a grant of \$300,000 to give economic and other assistance to the

West Alabama town of Union. The office of Housing and Urban Development seemed to choose Fredd, for one reason, because the Fredd campus is designated as an historically black college or university, and the area of Greene County is virtually all-black.

Several officials spoke earnestly of the effort planned to bring economic development to the Greene County town of 350 people. Especially eloquent seemed Mayor Esmer Walker, a Vietnam veteran, who did not seem at all cowed by the prospect of what lay ahead.

So what is the state of Union right now? If one were to make an unannounced visit to Union what would one find?

The first challenge for such an idea is to simply find Union. It's not so difficult, if you can follow a map—and keep the faith. The Union exit is about 30 miles down I-59-20 West from Tuscaloosa. From there you go about eight miles to the right, past the Cotton Patch restaurant and into the country.

A drive to Union from the interstate is two lanes all the way with trees right up to the road. Every few hundred yards or so there is a brick house, but run-down shacks dot the landscape all the way. Every few miles a county road branches off. Businesses have been run down for years.

Union cont'd on pg. 8

Homecoming featured b'ball victories



Mashay Rutley is crowned Homecoming Queen for 2001 during half-time ceremonies of the Buccaneers' first home basketball game

ality, validated opinions, speech, vocabulary, appearance, and activities.

These qualities were shown through an interview with judges. Kimberly Berry, Laura Cornett, Cass Martin, Mashay Rutley, and Claressa Sanders all seem to shine out of the 12 nominees.

Before the pep rally on the lawn area directly behind the atrium on Thursday, students enjoyed the pounding rhythms of drummers provided by the music

department. Some students also took advantage of lawn games such as volleyball and 'valcro-ball' catch.

During the week of homecoming many activities were held. Nov. 5-8 the five finalists set up displays in the atrium, and many of them stood by to meet the students of Shelton. Also on

Wednesday while the students mingled with the finalists there was a presentation of the kickboxing class.

The five finalist were chosen based on their communication skills, person-

ality, validated opinions, speech, vocabulary, appearance, and activities.

Homecoming cont'd on pg. 3

As the war turns—the voices of experience speak...

By Chris Bunn

The Taliban has lost control of the most important city in Afghanistan. Hamid Karzai is trying to organize a new broad-based government. Women celebrated in the streets when they got the news of the Taliban's apparent defeat.

"It seems as though the Taliban is falling apart as much from the inside as from outside resources," said Dave Sandy, an English instructor here at Shelton. It does indeed. In fact, Osama bin Laden is being hunted as much by the Taliban now as by the U.S. government. The war is starting a new phase.

Bill Aldridge, economics instructor at Shelton, offered his unique perspective on the war. The question of the com-

parison of this war to the Vietnam conflict was asked. "It's a lot different in that the war is now in our country. Korea and Vietnam were like a car wreck six states away. This is really a local war," said Aldridge.

When asked to comment on the amount of bloodshed and innocent lives lost, Aldridge had this to say. "Now that (the terrorists) realize they can bring bombs over here, we need to go over there and stop them. That's the reason there's a lot of support for it. If nothing had happened here, there would have been less support for it. There's a big backlash right now in Great Britain, because they don't see most of the problem. The terrorists didn't knock down Big Ben!"

Aldridge also discussed the fall of the Taliban. "The support (the terrorists) was based on money.

There was some cause on their side, but their soldiers were paid for with money. It's easy to pay those people to change sides. There wasn't much backing for the Taliban regime."

When confronted with the rumor of his "hippy" past, Aldridge was pleasant. "I had long hair and rode motorcycles. I didn't go for rush. I wasn't really in the anti-war movement, but I wasn't pro-war. I would say that I was one of the few people who voted for McGovern in '72. The reason I voted for McGovern is that I didn't think we had the right to bomb someone else's country. You need to gain permission from somebody if you are going to bomb somebody else's country."

Future Issues

This is the seventeenth Courier of the year. We will publish twice each month in November. One per month is set for December and January, 2002. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278 or the Courier editorial office at 391-2406.

"Keep Looking Up!"

By Dr. Lee Albritton



An absolutely spectacular sight awaits you about two hours after sunset the rising on the eastern horizon of our Solar System's largest planet, Jupiter. You simply cannot miss it by looking east for the brightest object in the sky.

One will note two bright stars to the left of Jupiter. These stars—Castor and Pollux—are the heads of the twins that make up the constellation Gemini! The twins bodies are made of fainter stars that run toward Jupiter. As a matter of fact, Jupiter is located generally between the twins. During the coming months, it will be fun to watch Jupiter slowly move in the sky relative to the twins.

Jupiter is a huge gas giant planet that is primarily made of hydrogen. It would take over

300 Earths to equal the mass of Jupiter. It only takes Jupiter about 10 hours to rotate one time on its axis which causes the thick clouds that surround the planet to be belted or banded. The pressure gets so great at the bottom of its dense atmosphere that the hydrogen gas is liquefies. So the planet, like all gas giants, has no hard surface like Earth but a liquid layer beneath its cloud belts.

The ancients knew this was a very large planet and named it for their king of the gods, Jupiter. As you are probably aware from mythology, Jupiter amused himself by throwing lightning bolts from Mount Olympus toward humans to scare them. Jupiter's symbol represents a lightning bolt.

All gas giant planets have

Our Largest Planet, Jupiter

large numbers of moons, and Jupiter is no exception with sixteen! Galileo observed the four largest moons of Jupiter with his telescope and noted that they revolved around the planet. This was one of the proofs that the old Greek notion that everything revolved around Earth was totally false. In Galileo's honor these moons are referred to as the Galilean moons, and their names are Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. One can observe them with a good pair of binoculars, and it is neat to see them in different positions around the planet night after night.

Keep looking up and marvel at the brightest object in the sky—the mighty Jupiter! Don't forget to check out its four large moons with binoculars or a small telescope!

Off the Shelf...

New works available in the Brooks-Cork Library

By Glen Johnson

On the Best-Seller Shelf...

Nobel Prize winner Nadine Gordimer gives us a look at the new South Africa in *The Pickup*. When Julie Summers', daughter of a powerful businessman, car breaks down in the wrong part of town, a young Arab emerges from under the car he's working on and offers to help her. The story and the car move on from there.

Prolific biographer of the famous dead, Christopher Andersen (author of *The Day Diana Died*, *Jackie After Jack*, and *The Day John Died*, has climbed to a new limb on the Windsor family tree with his latest book *Diana's Boys*. This is being called the first comprehensive biography of "the heir and the spare" and contains all the expected juicy tidbits.

With *My Name Is Red*, Orhan Pamuk, one of Europe's most prominent novelists, has produced a fascinating story that combines a murder mys-

tery with a love story set in sixteenth-century Istanbul. The Sultan has decided to illustrate his recent biography. But the project is delayed when one of the principal illustrators disappears. And a delay in one of the Sultan's projects can very often prove fatal to those involved if solutions are not quickly put forward.

Philosophy: *Work and play in Early Childhood*, by Freya Jaffke; *The Hurried Child* by David Elkind; *Yoga Mind & Body*, by Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Centre; *Great Heroes of Mythology*, by Petra Press.

History: *The Good War*, by Studs Terkel; *The Wars of the Roses*, by Alison Weir; *Queen Victoria*, by Christopher Hibbert; *Ireland*, by Maire O'Brien.

Literature: *The History of Tom Jones*, by Henry Fielding; *The Illustrated Works of Jane Austen*, by Jane Austen; *The Personal History of David Copperfield*, by Charles Dickens; *Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter*, by Herman Melville; *The Collected Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*, by Edgar Allan Poe; *Complete Poetry and Selected Prose*, by Walt Whitman.

Shelton State Courier

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are

urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

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As always, Homecoming at Shelton was centered on fun and athletics. Activities included some impressive stunts by the cheerleaders, the introduction of the Shelton Starlets, a new dance team, a performance by drummers from the music department and a photo op to catch all the athletes in attendance for the 2001 homecoming pep rally. But the focus was ultimately on the Buc basketball team and their victories over Gadsden State



Homecoming cont'd from pg. pg.1

The cheerleaders began the pep rally with a cheer to pump up the fans. The new Starlets dance team (which will begin performing at basketball half-times in 2002) cheerleaders, women's and men's basketball team were introduced

by Dr. Alan Mallory, who served as emcee.

The Buccaneers—both women and men—left the homecoming crowd happy with wins, 86-78 for the women and 92-70 for the men.

Public Service Announcement

UA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND CIRCLE K CLUB TEAM UP FOR HOLIDAY EVENT

The University of Alabama Museum of Natural History will host an open house Sunday, Dec. 2, from 5-7 p.m. during a holiday luminary display on the Quad by the Circle K Club service organization. Stroll the candlelit Quad-rangle, hear the seasonal music of Denny Chimes, and visit the decorated Museum in Smith Hall on the northeast corner of the Quad. Enjoy refreshments there and tour exhibits of fossils, rocks and minerals from the Coal Age, Dinosaur Age, and Ice Age.

For 27 years, the Circle K Club has held the luminary display on the UA campus. Club members sell luminaries by soliciting donations from campus organizations and local businesses to raise money for the patients' fund at Partlow State School.

In order to help the Museum plan for open house refreshments and accommodations, please respond to Valerie Duncan at 205-348-2542 or vduncan@alan.ua.edu.

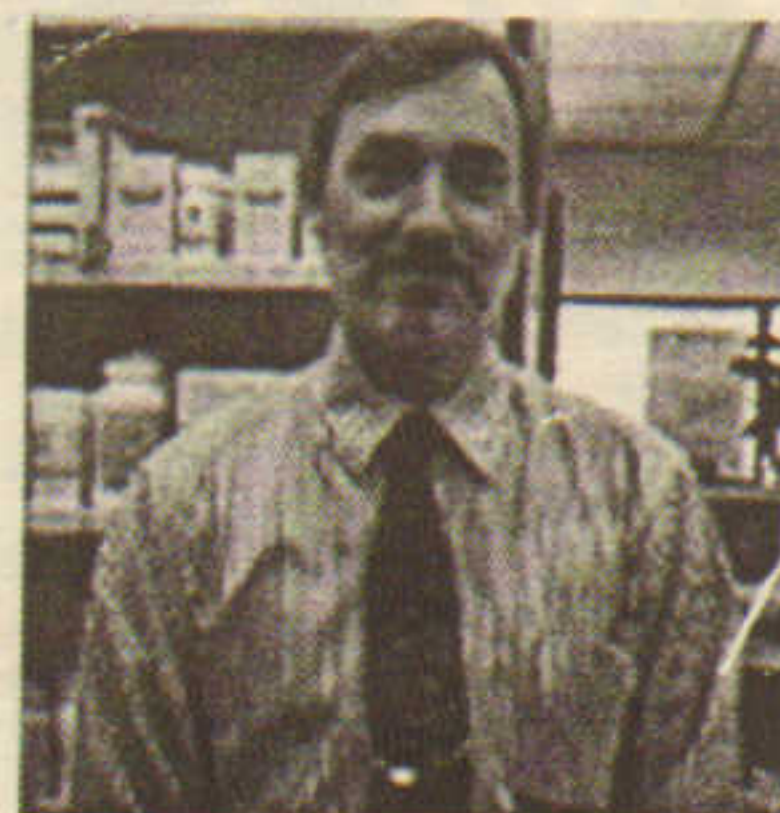
Regular operating hours for the UA Museum of Natural History are Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Sun., 1-4:30 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and seniors.



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Sports

—The Buccaneers are Here to Play—



Buccaneer basketball off to fastest start ever



Chaos Reigns —When the Lady Bucs get after it, all bets are off

By Adam Jaffe

Students at Shelton go "Buc" wild over what's looking to be an exciting season. The Lady Buccaneers are cur-

rently 2-1 in conference play and 2-2 overall.

On Nov. 8 the women had a big home opener against Gadsden State winning 86-78. Next came a tough road loss

against Columbia State 80-68, the Lady Bucs defense was broken down by a 6'8" center who easily managed to score 31 points and countless rebounds. Scoring in double figures for Shelton was Carol McDonald with 17 points, Tiffany Burton with 15 and Marquita Hillman with 12 points.

Nov. 13 was a huge victory for the Lady Bucs, winning 96-57. Tiffany Burton was the leading scorer with 22 points. Nov. 15, Shelton hosted Meridian but the game was postponed due to a medical emergency in the stands. The game is scheduled for completion Jan. 12 in Meridian. There are 44 seconds left on the clock with Shelton winning 86-83.

Coach Maddona Thompson was unsatisfied with the 69-57 loss against Snead State. "This was the worst performance to date. I think nothing was accomplished but a lot of conditioning," said Thompson. Next home game is

Nov. 30 at 5:30 p.m. against Wallace of Selma.

The men's basketball team has gotten off to a great start: 4-1, defeating Gadsden State Nov. 8 and a huge win over Snead State Nov. 19. The final was Shelton 118—Snead 112.

Sixteen players scored for Shelton; those in double figures were Antron Moore with 18, Eric Scott had 16 and Ronald Cooper with 13. Coach Mohun was not as visibly happy as one might expect. What could one ask at 2-0? "We won but we did not play that well as a team," he said.

On Thanksgiving the men travelled to Tallahassee, Fla. for the Tallahassee Community College Thanksgiving Tournament. The Bucs dropped their first game of the year there, but also won two: against St. John's River, 91-79 and Technical Career Institute of New York, 99-79.

Pope Spruiell signs with University of Mississippi

On November 14, golfer Pope Spruiell signed a scholarship with the University of Mississippi.

Spruiell had three priorities in choosing his college.

"I wanted to get away from home and make a name for myself, and it will be fun to play

against my friends at Alabama and Auburn," Spruiell said. "I also wanted to go to a school where I could focus on academics."

The third was to attend a school where he felt he could be successful.

"I was also impressed by

the fact that the golf team has had four academic all-Americans in the last five years."

"I first met Coach Woody Cowart when he was going to a tournament, and we talked about what he expected from his team" Spruiell said. "I felt very comfortable with coach

Cowart, and knew his priorities when he spoke of the importance of academics."

Spruiell was the AISA state champ his senior year and was chosen the MVP of the Sumter Academy golf team his junior and senior years.

He has continued to succeed at Shelton as the team went to the nationals last year and finished third.

Spruiell was the first-team All-American and finished third in the regional tournament.

Spruiell has finished in the top three during four of the five tournaments the Buccaneers have participated in this season.

"The day after we mailed out my information, the letter came from Ole Miss," Spruiell said. "I knew then my choice was made."



On hand to watch Buc golfer Pope Spruiell sign with the Ole Miss Rebels of the SEC were (seated L-R) his parents Vicki and Clemis Spruiell and Buc coach Matt Terry. Behind are athletics coordinator Susan Mohun, Dean Humphrey Lee, Athletic Director Barry Mohun and Spruiell's golfing teammates

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The National College Beat

By Casey Crumby

Jason Nastke of Valatie, N. Y. is America's youngest sitting mayor since Shane Mack of Castlewood, S. D. in 1988. At age 18, Nastke was elected to City Council after being inspired to help his community when a council meeting broke into chaos.

At age 19, he defeated the incumbent Mayor Charles White, in 1999. Now at age 21, Nastke attends Siena College in Loudonville, N. Y.

He was personally sworn in by Gov. George Pataki and appointed to a prestigious position on the Hudson River Greenway in 2000. He has gathered a bit of celebrity for himself as he has appeared on *David Letterman*, *The News with Brian Williams*, and *The Today Show*. He was also featured in *CosmoGirl* magazine as a heartthrob.....

Across the nation, several colleges and universities have begun to voice their opinions on the war and the tragedy. Many students have begun clubs and organizations promoting patriotism amongst other students and support for the United States and the President. Several colleges infamously associated with past anti-war campaigns, such as the University of California at Berkeley, surprisingly have also incited strong

patriotism and support for the ongoing conflict. The leaders of these organizations, though young, have assumed adult roles on their campuses while encouraging young adults to learn more about what is occurring around them and to understand the conflict. Many leaders in this movement hope to create a new generation of patriots and proud Americans.....

With semester exams sneaking up, many students are beginning to feel that familiar rising, sickening churning dread that we've all come to know so well. But what is it that causes us to sweat it out everytime? Test anxiety, of course.

Myth: stress is the leading cause of test anxiety. Truth: tension causes anxiety because it is the body's negative reaction to stressors. This semester, try your own stress management plan and cure those test-time blues. Think of new ways of studying that might make the material more interesting or memorable, enhancing your chances of getting that "A." Remember, if you go in thinking you are going to fail, chances are, you will. So study up and stress down. Anxiety doesn't have to rule you and your GPA.

Seventy-nine students in Who's Who

The 2002 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges will include the names of 79 students from Shelton State Community College who have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders.

Shelton students named to Who's Who include Sharon Allen, Cal Andren, Sara Anikienko, and Jacob Austell.

Also named were Justin Bagley, Travis Barker, Janet Beaver, Kimberly Berry, Ashley Booth, Katrina Bonner, Leonard Brown, Paul Buford, Amy Carroll, Clint Chambless, Nicholas Coleman, Kay Collins, Laura Cornett, and Jennifer Conant.

Also named to Who's Who were John Davison, Erin Drinkwater, and Adam Dye. Jullian Fair, Matthew Fitzgerald, and Tamara Funkhouser. Aundi Glin, Sam Goode, Kristin Graham, Joel Gravel, Christopher Green, Jill Griffin, Seth Grocholski, and Rachel Grooms.

Also named were Michelle Hamner, Kathy Handley, Kathleen

Hartley, Nicole Haynes, Carol Henderson, Zachary Hill, Lamont Howard, and Jennifer Huggins. Adam Johnson, Deborah Khalil, Bradley Lee, Amy Lumpkins, Cassaranda Martin, Matthew Martin, David McCaig, Joanie McCullough, Joshua McCurnin, Jonathan Mitchell, and Johnnie Morrow, Jr.

Also named to Who's Who were Clara Newton, Warren O'Dell, Cameron Rester, William Richards, James Roberts, Kellyn Robertson, William Richards, Eugene Rodriguez, Kyle Rudowski, James Ryan, Larry Ryan, Christopher Shirley, Shane Smith, Amanda Standridge, Donna Stewart, Jamie Swindle, William Taylor, Ashley Tidmore, and Walter Turner.

Finally, those also named to Who's Who were Coty Wade, Denise Webster, Landon Welch, Allison Wilkes, Jacqueline Wilkins, Mary Wilkinson, Jeremy Williams, Marie Wilker, and Julie Zheng.

Where to go for snow

By Jennifer McDaniel

A cold spell has hit Alabama and it is feeling more like winter as each day progresses. Winter however, does not truly feel like winter until a bit of snow has been seen.

A number of other states have been blessed with that magical white powder that seems to brighten the days of many.

Snow can be found falling just about anywhere north of Virginia and in the mountain cold areas. Dennis Smith, meteorologist for The Weather Channel, said in an exclusive interview with the Courier, "Once you get into the areas of Boston, New York, Chicago, Detroit and the Dakotas you are sure to see snow either on the ground or in the air in the winter time. Also, they say in Minneapolis that there is a constant snow on the ground from November 15 to March 15."

For a nearby weekend getaway many college students travel to Gatlinburg, Tenn. The town is located in

the mountains and offers a variety of activities that are sure to keep any college student busy.

Skiing tends to be the primary reason that attracts visitors. The ski season runs from early December through mid-March and the resort has a 100 percent capability of making snow. With a distance of just 300 miles from Birmingham, Gatlinburg makes a great weekend trip.

Of course, there are other places that are more serious when it comes to snow and skiing. One of those is Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The name is tempting alone.

Lately a majority of the people looking for snow out west think of this town as the best place to go for the ultimate ski trip. With over 500 inches of snow per year skiing is a must and fun is sure to be found.

Snow, it turns out, can be rather easy to find, it just requires a bit of travel.

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Looking for information about Tuscaloosa? Try the Web

By Brett Deason

When you go to a search engine on the web and type in 'Tuscaloosa Alabama', you have a result of over one hundred thousand matches. Surprising, isn't it?

Three of those websites are: The Tuscaloosa Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Tuscaloosa Web and Tuscaloosa Online!

The Tuscaloosa Convention and Visitor's Bureau (TC&VB) is a website full of information for travelers such as accommodation information and shopping information. The TC&VB website lets visitors to Tuscaloosa know about Tuscaloosa's calendar of events as well as a list of entertainment options for visi-

tors. The TC&VB website informs the reader of the array of group tours they give. According to their site, 'Each tour can be customized to accommodate the special interest of the group'. For more information about the Tuscaloosa Convention and Visitor's Bureau website check out: www.tcvb.org.

The Tuscaloosa Web website is full of even more information about Tuscaloosa than the TC&VB website. Tuscaloosa Web has a long list of links to restaurants all over Tuscaloosa. The restaurant list includes a link to Bama Dining with a list of the different choices that Bama Dining has to offer.

There is also an excellent link to Tuscaloosa's listings at DineSite.com (for more information about DineSite.com,

go to: www.dinesite.com).

The website has a list of bookstores, including a comic book store, a bookstore for educators and a Christian bookstore. There is a link to clothing stores including Bama Fever, Krackeroos and One Enchanted Evening. The Tuscaloosa Web website has a very good list of schools in Tuscaloosa such as Central High School and Stillman College. The Tuscaloosa Web website can be found at: www.tuscaloosaweb.com.

The Tuscaloosa Online! website has brief informative history information on its first page. The first paragraph heralds itself as 'your one-stop resource for Tuscaloosa County information'. This website also has links on local schools such as elementary schools, junior high

schools and high schools.

There is a link on their website to Crimson Tide Athletics. Tuscaloosa Online! is full of links to many businesses and online magazines and radio stations. The list of businesses includes an automobile dealership, computer stores and an attorney. The online magazines that you can click to include *Bama* magazine and The *Crimson White* Internet Edition. The list of radio stations includes a public radio station for Tuscaloosa and a radio station providing news and information. The Tuscaloosa Online! website can be found at: www.dbtech.net/tuscaloosa/.

Here are several useful sites with information on just about anything you want to know about Tuscaloosa.

T-TOWN P.A.W.S. OFFERS PROFESSIONAL PET PICTURES WITH SANTA

T-Town P.A.W.S. (People for Animal Welfare and Safety) will offer professional pet pictures with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Spiller Furniture Gallery in downtown Tuscaloosa.

The pictures, by David Justice of Just-Us Photography, will be available for \$8 each or three for \$20. Proceeds will benefit the animals of West Alabama.

T-Town P.A.W.S., Inc. is a non-profit organization that supports animal spay/neuter operations to prevent pet overpopulation and teaches responsible pet care and ownership.

For more information, please call 205-633-1002 or visit the web site at www.t-townpaws.org.

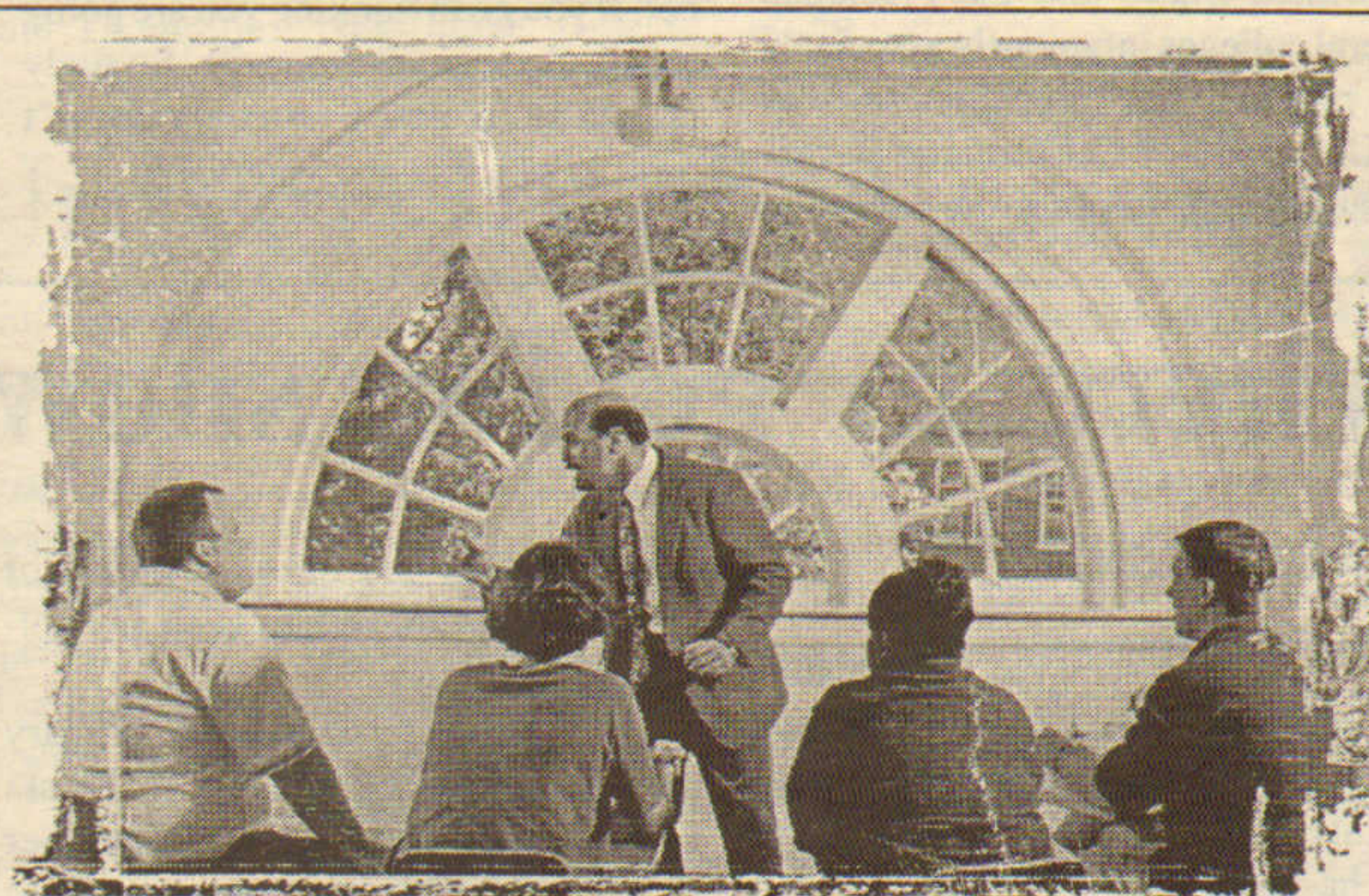
Don't Miss The Nutcracker

Beginning on Friday, Nov. 30 at the Bean-Brown theatre on campus.

There will be eight performances: 7:30 p.m., Friday; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2; 7:30 on Friday, Dec. 7; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8; 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9.

Tickets are available at the Bean-Brown box office, which is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for senior citizens and \$8 for students and children. For tickets call 391-2227

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Theatre department's rendition of *The Fantasticks* was...

By Zach Gable

Shelton State's department of theatre presented the musical *The Fantasticks*, the longest running musical in the world, Nov. 15-18. The production, at Bean-Brown Theatre, was well done and entertaining.

The small cast, consisting of a narrator, a boy and a girl, two fathers, a pair of comedians, and four mutes maintained the show's energy throughout the play. The plot revolves around two young lov-

ers, Matt, played by Matt Cornelson, and Luisa, played by Allison Wilkes.

The two fathers, Hucklebee, played by Stephen Austin, and Bellomy, played by Brandon Thompson, hire a fortune hunter, El Gallo, played by Zack Hill, to

stage a phony adventure in which Matt "saves" the girl and ignites their love. El Gallo, (pronounced El Guy-o), is also a narrator that guides the audience through-

The mixture of comedy, plot, and music added up to a fun musical and an enjoyable night.

out the production.

The comedians, Mortimer, played by Josh McCurnin, and Henry, played by Russell Frost, leave the audience gasping for air. Whenever the two were on stage there seemed to be a feeling of anticipa-

tion inside of the crowded Bean-Brown Theatre. Mortimer and Henry serve as El Gallo's helpers to help carry out the phony adventure. Drew Williams, Jason Williams, Lindsey Jacobs, and Janet Hernandez are the four mutes.

The mutes who are dressed in all-black (appropriate outfits by costume designer, Jeanette Robertson) are able to provide inside information about the characters and the setting throughout the musical. Director Charles Prosser, mixes comedy and music successfully which resulted in quick-moving action and a good time for all.

Music plays an integral part in *The Fantasticks*. The musical contains a number of songs. The band, Kyle Norris on

piano, and Wayne Rau, percussion, did a terrific job of providing the music. Wilkes, as Louisa, showed off her outstanding voice while performing her solo, "Much More."

The Fantasticks is filled with catchy tunes from start to finish and the audience found itself leaving the theater humming "Try to Remember."

The mixture of comedy, plot, and music added up to a fun musical and an enjoyable night. The youthful cast tackled the character roles with confidence that seemed to carry over to the audience. The band was talented, the cast could carry a tune and the result was a fantastic rendition of *The Fantasticks*.

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Also operating at Huntington Market Place

Hwy. 43 North

Union Cont'd from p.1

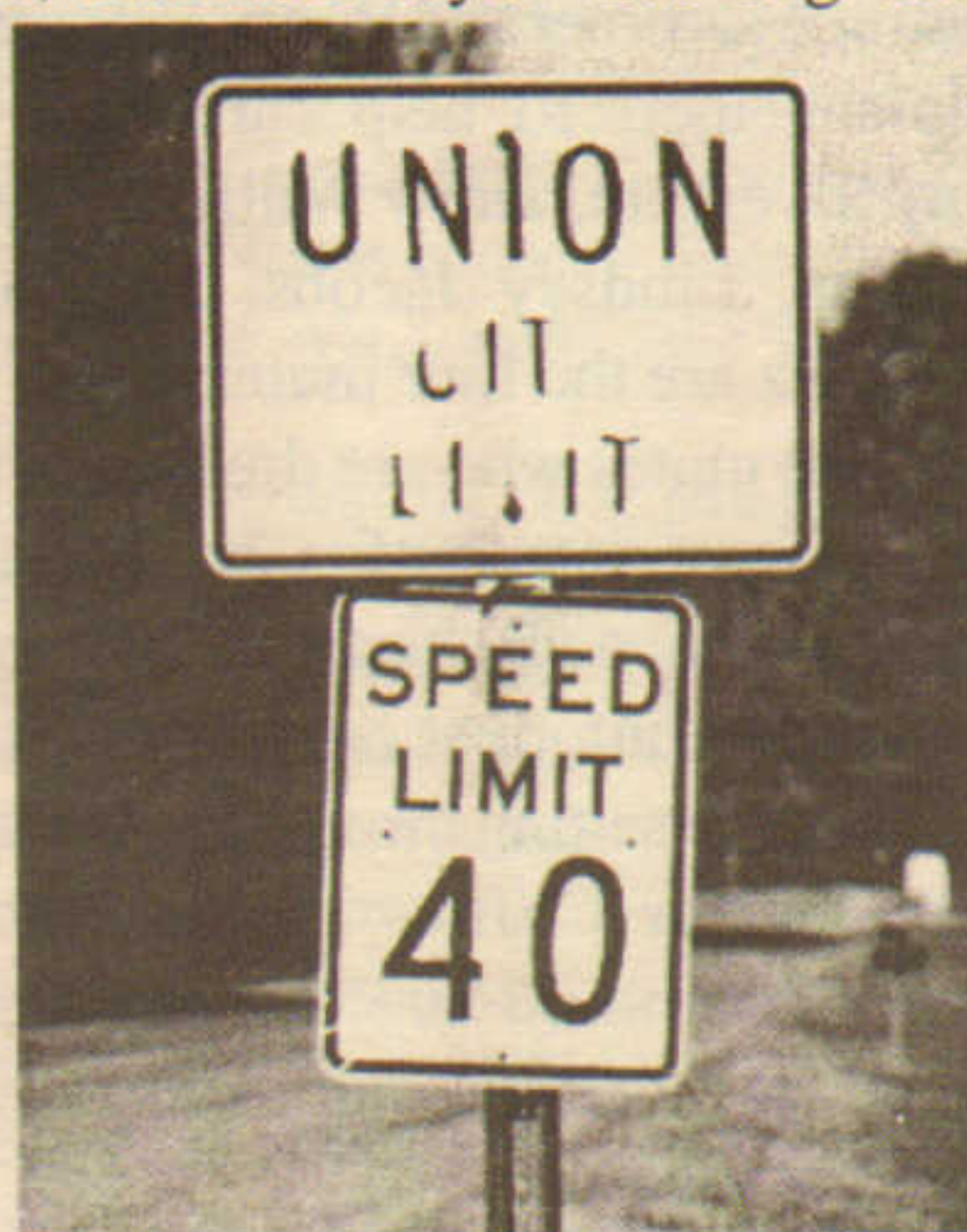
If you are not into living miles away from everywhere, it may seem depressing.

After asking at a couple of churches (always a good source of information in the country, if you can find one open), one might be directed to the Harknesses, Lousie and Henry. They live in an attractive brick home a couple of miles past Union.

Louise is the talkative one and Henry, she says, is the fire chief. This is significant because the Union initiative has been dubbed the "Firehouse Strategy" after the only civic building in the community, the volunteer fire department.

Henry is not available and what Louise has to share about Union makes it

clear why this area is a good candidate for help from a college or the federal government. The only tax money is from the one country store and the Wishbone Restaurant, Harkness says. The dog track is



The only civic building in Union is this 1984 facility which houses both the volunteer fire department and the city hall. Photos by Adam Jaffe

open but it's simulcast and not bringing in much revenue.

Harkness says the Union residents have their town meetings every second and fourth Tuesday but only three to four people show up at the town hall which is attached to the volunteer fire station. There are few volunteers, so when something needs to be done they look to Henry Harkness to do it because he's the chief. The truck is old and most of the equipment doesn't work, Harkness says.

This present initiative is not the first one attempted to assist Union, but the grant from 1995 was not enough to pay for the low-income housing it built. "Everyone in

the town is in debt to the state," Harkness says.

Harkness says the town has gone down hill in the last couple of decades. "It used to be comparable to old Northport, a little town like that," Harkness says. But it's still a laid back town in which everybody knows everybody else, she says.

To get groceries most people take the 15 minute ride to Eutaw back down the highway past Greenetrack. But to get other things they have to go 40 minutes to Tuscaloosa.

Harkness says it's 20 minutes to Aliceville. She goes once or twice per week to Tuscaloosa. She goes into Eutaw two or three times a week.

Mrs. West

Are you lost, lonely, or confused? Do you need answers? Mrs. West can help!

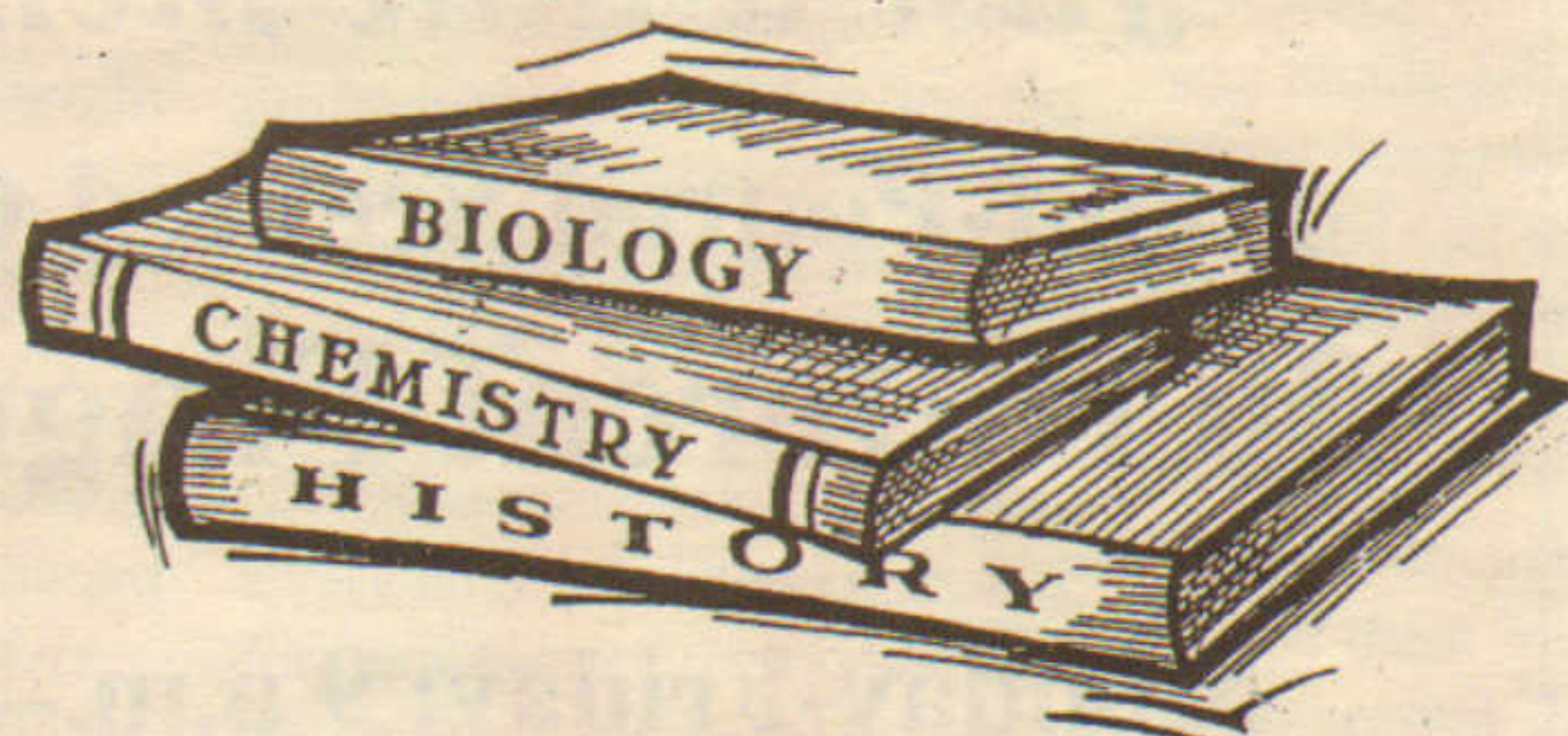
**Love *Marriage*

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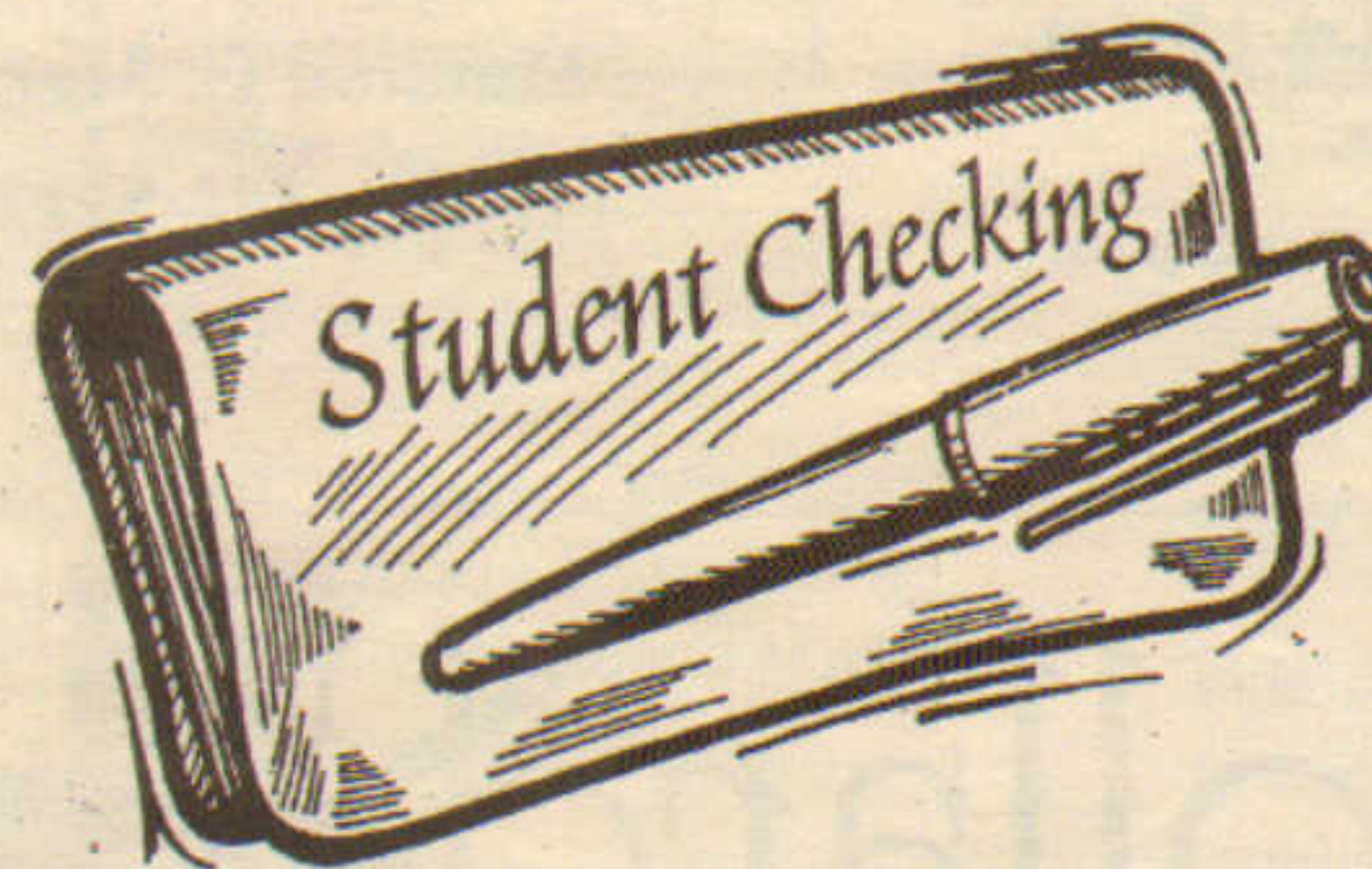
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